

## M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA)

<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>				
Industry, Empire and Slavery in Birmingham's Anglican Churches (1715-1905)				
<b>LEAD INSTITUTION</b>				
Name of HEI institution		University of Birmingham		
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PARTNER ORGANISATION</b>				
Name of organisation		Birmingham Cathedral		
Website:		<a href="https://birminghamcathedral.com/">https://birminghamcathedral.com/</a>		
<p>This project explores the relationship between industrialist benefactors with business interests in slavery and colonialism, and the Anglican Church in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Birmingham, focussing on Birmingham Cathedral, St Martin in the Bullring, and St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter.</p> <p><b>Project</b></p> <p>We know that the transatlantic slave trade was crucial to the development of port cities like Liverpool, Bristol, and London. Historians are now investigating the importance of slavery and imperial networks to manufacturing hinterlands, such as Birmingham, which made metalwork and guns for the slave trade and imperial projects, as well as supplying steam engines to Caribbean plantations. These industries were fundamental to Birmingham's wealth and reputation as 'Workshop of the World' in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. But how did they impact on the physical fabric of Birmingham: its buildings and the social practices connected to them?</p> <p>By focussing on three Anglican Churches, this project will contribute to academic scholarship and public history, enabling Birmingham's Churches to address and communicate their connections to colonialism and enslavement, and historians to understand more broadly how slavery and empire contributed to the formation of civic institutions, and to the Industrial Revolution.</p> <p><b>Process</b></p> <p>You will identify key industrialist benefactors by analysing Diocesan Records (Library of Birmingham), as well as monuments and commemorative stained glass extant in the three churches. You will follow donors' connections to plantations and colonised places through the Library of Birmingham's extensive local business archives. You will develop a methodological framework – with the support of the supervisory team – to interpret this information. You applicant will need to be experienced in/willing to acquire knowledge of the use of archival evidence to support historical arguments.</p> <p><b>Place</b></p> <p>You will research and write an 80,000 word dissertation, under the guidance of the supervisory team. You will meet once a month with Dr Kate Nichols and Dr Kate Smith, with Revd Andy Delmege (Birmingham Cathedral) joining supervisions 4 times per year. You will spend one day per month in residence with the project partners, rotating between each of the three churches for the duration of</p>				

the project, to establish relationships and exchange knowledge with staff, volunteers, and congregations in preparation for your placement in the final year. You will also participate in the Church of England's Contested Heritage Committee, to enable you to learn from established practitioners, and to share and shape policy as the project progresses.

A 4-month placement across the three case study churches will take place from September to December 2028. Delmege will supervise the placement, drawing on his experience of delivering public engagement programming e.g. for Birmingham 2022. You will work with Church communities to co-produce new interpretation for the monuments explored in the thesis. You will share (and shape) this information through public engagement activities.

The partnership and placement will connect you to a wide network of heritage practitioners, providing you with experience of producing interpretation, and communicating research to the public, preparing you for a career in heritage, the arts, or academia.

This PhD has been co-designed in response to the research needs of Birmingham's Anglican Churches. It will underpin and further the work of the Church of England's Racial Justice Unit and the West Midlands Regional Racial Justice Collaboration by focussing deeply on central Birmingham, and on the focal role of the Cathedral. The project will enable a more complete understanding of the entanglement of the churches with empire and slavery. It will help the churches understand best practices in interpreting history, and lead to new interpretation. The partners hope that the project will enable them to change and deepen their role as custodians of living heritage, enabling new opportunities for creative and imaginative public engagement, changed and courageous practice, and work towards communicating better understood history with an integrity that helps them be agents of healing and justice.

The work of researchers in this area has become subject to considerable public controversy. The Cathedral recognises a duty of care to support you, and as a part of its wider responsibility to care for and safeguard you, and is committed to learning from best practice in this area.

### Person

You should demonstrate existing knowledge or experience of at least one of the following areas of study; you should also demonstrate an interest and openness to learning more about any of the following:

- contested heritage and public history
- histories of enslavement and empire
- histories of the industrial revolution
- business histories
- methods and approaches to writing histories of enslavement
- visual analysis/use of non-textual sources

**HOW TO FIND OUT MORE.** Please email the lead university supervisor if you want to find out more about this CDA project.

Lead HEI Supervisor:	Dr Kate Nichols
Lead HEI Supervisor Email:	e.k.nichols@bham.ac.uk